

American Express Calcutta India
Dec 5, 1962

Dear Tim:

Saw Harvard Crimson statement in NY Times yesterday & today Newsweek--also last week had spent several afternoons & eves with David Winters--took him to burning ghats & we turned on ganja with saddhus there--I been travelling temple sightseeing Konarak the last few weeks and staying high on ganja almost all day for about a month continuous, without the old nervousness anxiety I once had so I seem to be over that hump, marks the end of long years of ambivalence about ganja for me, I guess I'm getting calmer. Also today by the way received note from BF Isenberg--Peter & I leave here for Benares in a few days & will settle there a few months--probably Xmastime we'll take side trip to Agra meet Isenberg see Taj Mahal & musical holy festivity there then--but permanantly in Benares next few months. Address above will reach me.

Enclosed m.o. for \$100. Yr check was finally paid anyway by bank so this extra 100 hereby returned. I have the other 100, I hope you dont wind up needing it more than I. Tho by tone of newsweek I take it that on surface at least you still considered respectable.

First seeing the Times, I sat down to write short reply to send to Harvard Crimson, I see now its spread further than Crimson. Enclosed find a copy. Let me know if I should send it (this version or amended)--or give them yourself if time is short. Also let me know if there's any help I can be, signing any declarations etc.

Winters shwed me IFIF, glad to see your ashram idea taking more tangible shape, tho it sounds like an expensive proposition all them calm cells. Use my name as some kind of cooperative member if you dont think my name do more harm then good.

Anything you want me to do from here?

Writing crimson short reply, (& generally thinking about politics the last few months) I increasingly become aware that my own anger--(Ang) i.e. impatience, pride, comedy etc--gets in the way of resolving & conciliating conflicts I get into. Since the problem is to communicate a neutral no-threat no-problem~~x~~ calm, to still the uneasy waters, etc. in both political problems & this mushrooming smallscale academic war--I wrote the crimson letter as dignified & simple & easy as possible--in ~~xx~~ other words not push people into a corner by contempt or anger where for pride or self defense they have to fight back. I suppose you don't need this advice since you've been optomistically reasonable (more then me with my cosmic paranoia) all along.

Last nite lying down, I figured out one formula--don't push the mushrooms etc as God substances. Like "God" itself, the drugs are neither God nor not God. That is to say, people get nervous when ~~face with~~ faced with the ms as "God". People get nervous when faced with God for that matter (but I mean this overused concept god is a stumbling block--it was for me, in the drug experiences as you remember).

The really dirty thing I must say is Monro-Farnsworth jumping the gun & using the phrase "mind distorting", sort of like they swallowed some kind of party line. I suppose they didnt consult you on phraseology. Weston Labarre & the anthropologists who defended the indians should object to that, as well as most of the groups experimenting with the drugs.

I suppose you have thought of it, but are you able to line up any professional support from other experimenting groups, to take exception to the Harvard statement--no not take exception--but request them to alter their phraseology so it isnt so pajoritive--from mind distorting to mind changing, or consciousness altering, or consciousness expanding or something even more technical. cortex inactivating, if that's what it is technically. Or Superego inactivating drugs or chemicals. You have reasonable scientific grounds to complain they've misued language.

Difficult thing I suppose ~~x~~ is to prove noone's flipped on drugs. Can you get any unassailable statistics on that, & thus calm the scene? How handle this issue in a calm, concise, way/?It's a question of ~~xxxx~~ data in part.

probably more paper for me
I send from here - I'll send it today

P.S. I'll send this to the Crimson

Winters left some mescaline with Gary & he wrote me a long letter (Snyder did) evaluating it in relation to his Koan experiences. I guess he'll write you, or has he already? Or I'll send you his letter if he hasn't wrote you. Let me know. The gist of it is

interruption--people came in hotel room (on corner of Times Sq of Calcutta--we're leaving in a few days so much socializing)--woke up this morning brooding on Harvard Deans etc & thought what wd Gregory say--suddenly felt my own reaction was too solemn--that Gregory wd address a big flowery moonlit pome to the Youths of Harvard rather than prosaic disputations--I suppose it might be, actually, ~~best~~ best to treat the dean letter with lightness & sense of humor rather than make it a battle of archangels in the snakey cosmopolitical spheres--

anyway as I was writing above, Gary's conclusion was "So, finall. I also decided that at least for me, no peyote experience has ever been Enlightening. It has been illuminating, visionary, and of enormous benefit in understanding my own mind and structure of consciousness, but I must say the basic central insight, supporting wisdom and understanding, as far as I have a little of it, came to me thru Zanz Zazen (sitting meditation) and general Zen practice, not thru the mescaline. In the mescaline, that backround (Zen practice)" both opens my mind farther and makes me understand better what is happening.

"So I figure mescaline is a real consciousness expander, and shows one the CONTENT of consciousness, but it doesn't (as I say, for me anyhow) show the GROUND of consciousness, the content-less stuff of mind, self, which I know you CAN get a good sight of thru Zen meditation. I havent found mescaline to throw the least glimmer of light on Koan.

"I guess therefore, I must be ~~suspecting~~ suspicious of any claims to getting a 'satori' on these chemicals. Another name for satori is Kensho which means "seeing your true nature" this ain't a vision.

"I'll be trying them again, also the psylocybin you gave me, and getting a Zen priest to try them. Maybe my view will change."

Well all that's real thoughtful and makes some sense, and he's talking from solid experience with both Zen and (years ago) Peyote & now mescaline. Tallies with what the Yoga man in NY told me "undoubtedly an aid to meditation, but Yoga gets further cuts the knot" and my own experience you know of being terrorized by the hallucinogens (and even pot) finally as of last year in Tanger. Still not turned on myself with the mesc. I have with me. I think probably in Benares I'll feel safe enough to go ahead again. I notice I seem to have grown out of the angst, so that now I can take pot for weeks continuous without unbearable anxiety, & now with pleasure. So I suspect something inside me's stabilized sufficiently to make hallucinogens bearable again.

The key thing with me, in pot, was learning to not be attached to & scared by my own paranoid tricks of mind--like I think I wrote you one night I was sure my pen was pickpocketed & got all nervous about the people around me--and then found later I'd left my pen home.

Send me IFIF prospectus when finished?

You alright? Hope you're not too embroiled in conflicts. The work you're doing, to pioneer a situation where the chemicals can be taken in calm, to establish places where it's available, that is a solid & needed work, and I'm happy you're tackling it, you're a big hero--doin yr duty--and I judge you'll succeed, directly or indirectly, whatever the temporary setbacks--simply because what you're proposing--the basic proposition of establishing some permanant or transitional institutional ritual scene wherein people can avail themselves of the drugs--makes inevitable sense, on any level of consciousness.

Making a religion of it, & isolating groups in Islands, seems at this

distance to be unnecessary & maybe unworkable, except for short freak interesting episodes.

Is Harvard etc pressure pushing you toward that isolation? They planning to dump you out of Cambridge?

One thing I wondered about IFIF, where you gonna get all that loot to buy houses & ashrams & burbling brooks? & chemical factories. Sounds like work. (to have to hustle or apply for that much money.)

Peter's fine. I think I wrote you we both have long hair & beards & I wander round Calcutta in pyjamas & ~~xx~~ red tantrik style shirt.

OK, I'll leave off, & type the Crimson letter which I'll enclose. Tell me if you think it 's OK to send.

As ever
Allen

Allen

Tim: I'm sending copy of letter to Crimson simultaneously with copy to you - because leaving for Benare in 2 days, I'll be out of mail reach for several weeks. The letter is neutral enough in tone I think.

Can reach me thru same Amexpress Calcutta address, forwarded —

Love Allen.